

CONNECTION

LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA

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A letter from the State Librarian of California



The tragedy of 11 September 2001 and our subsequent (and future) ordeal as a nation should challenge all of us working in libraries to reaffirm the core values of the library as an institution and the values of those of us serving the public through libraries. At a time of violence and fanaticism, we should remember that libraries stand for an informed and open society pursuing the path of peace through knowledge. At a time of intolerance and cruelty, we should remember that libraries are dedicated to tolerance and compassion. For as long as we have enjoyed civilization itself, the library - as an institution, as a mode of service, as a way of life -- has been dedicated to the work of memory, wisdom, and healing knowledge. It was through the library that civilization was preserved and transmitted in previous eras of barbarism and slaughter. Throughout the history of this great nation, especially since the rise of the free public library movement in the mid-19th century, the library has embodied a persistent democratic ideal: a belief in, and a commitment to, the intrinsic value and dignity of each and every citizen. In this time of national challenge, it is more important than ever that the library community reaffirm its core commitment to knowledge, democracy, moral and intellectual value. We in the library field serve an ancient and ever-new institution: the library, repository and enabler of knowledge, value, and dreams -- and civilization itself.

~ Dr. Kevin Starr
State Librarian of California

CLA Conference offers opportunity for cutting edge continuing education

Cindy Mediavilla, president of the California Library Association, wrote the following email to California's library community on September 17, 2001:

"I want to encourage you all to follow-through on your original plans to attend this year's California Library Association (CLA) conference. Certainly we were all devastated by the events of last week and may even be worried about leaving home during such uneasy times. However, I can think of no better way to rejuvenate service to our communities than by coming together in Long Beach and reaffirming our commitment to the profession. Please join me and other CLA officials in celebrating librarianship in California, Nov. 2-5."

~ Cindy Mediavilla,
President, California Library Association

The California Library Association's 103rd Annual Conference and Exhibition, scheduled for November 2-5, in Long Beach, promises four days of thought-provoking continuing education for librarians and library staff.

The program begins on Friday with a full day of pre-conference activities offered by experts on project management, library administration, automation, services to Spanish speakers, readers' advisory, and youth book discussion groups. On Saturday morning, the opening general session will feature author and radio personality Sandra Tsing Loh. Sunday's membership meeting features best-selling authors Faye and Jonathan Kellerman, and the president's luncheon on Monday will spotlight the contributions made by library

leaders during the profession's golden age, the 1950s and 1960s. Between the key speakers, the conference will host over 90 workshops on topics like literacy services, Children's Internet Protection Act (PIPA) and Internet filtering, recruitment for public librarians, and preparing for library disasters.

The California State Library breakfast kicks off Saturday's program. Then at noon, in the 200 booth exhibit hall, vendors will display the latest in products, services and technologies.

Among this year's new offerings are eight Sunrise Seminars on Sunday and Monday, during which vendors will demonstrate their products over breakfast. Usual conference events, including the Beatty breakfast, the Annual Coulter lecture and luncheon, the California Young Reader Medal Awards luncheon, and the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC) Annual Awards luncheon round out the program. Social events include the conference reception Saturday night at the Aquarium of the Pacific, the annual Chinese Banquet, and "Death By Chocolate: Murder at the Library," an interactive mystery evening that benefits the Edna Yelland Scholarship.

The complete conference announcement is available on CLA's website, www.cla-net.org. On-line registration is available on the website, as well. To receive a copy of the conference program by mail, contact CLA at info@cla-net.org or call 916-447-8541.

When you [register online](#), you will receive an automatic receipt. You will also be entered in a drawing to win a free registration to the 2002 CLA Conference in Sacramento. Don't delay. [Register today!](#)

CSLA 2001, A Beach Odyssey

On October 31st, school librarians from throughout California will converge on Long Beach for the 25th anniversary of the annual California School Library Association (CSLA) Conference.

The conference will be packed with informative, yet entertaining, special events. Dr. Harry Wong, the featured keynote speaker on Thursday morning, will tell attendees how to "run a library that hums like a well-rehearsed orchestra."

Concurrent sessions, workshops,

exhibits, author autographing, and off-site tours to area school libraries will fill the four days of the conference which will conclude with Barney Salzberg talking and singing about "Not All Barneys Are Purple." The Primary California Young Reader Medal will be presented to Rod Clement on Friday evening, in a room with a magnificent view of the lighted Long Beach harbor.

The conference will also offer a Paraprofessional Academy, with sessions of special interest to classified personnel. And there will be an "Each



One Reach One" recruitment day on Saturday, when librarians are encouraged to bring teachers who might consider becoming librarians.

For more information log on to www.schoollibrary.org



MyCalifornia website earns national praise

In February 2001, *Connection* reported that California's new Web portal, *MyCalifornia*, would provide citizens information and services from every segment of state government. Since the launch, *MyCalifornia*, whose content the California State Library developed, has received more than one million visitors a day. Further, the site has garnered high praise from e-government's top leaders, developers and writers.

In August 2001, *MyCalifornia*, along with New York City's Web portal, won *Government Technology's* "Best of the Web" contest put on by the Center for Digital Government and *Government Technology* magazine. Calling California's and New York City's portals a "cut above the rest," Cathilea Robinett, the Center's executive director, said that *MyCalifornia* is a "beautiful site that is easy to navigate and offers a variety of online services. It offers personalization and is the only portal with an array of wireless capabilities."

Governor Gray Davis acknowledged the award saying that "Californians have more access to their government than ever before. This award is a tribute to increased empowerment." Arun Baheti, California's e-government director in the Office of the Governor, said that California "developed *MyCalifornia* to deliver a superior level of customer service to citizens and businesses, while streamlining government processes... It's an honor [for California] to be named the nation's best by the Center for Digital Government."

In *E-Government* magazine, Baheti emphasized the State

Library team's work on the site. He said that as California's leaders were thinking about what the *MyCalifornia* architecture should look like and what group could help in developing the site, the leaders recalled that the State Library once owned the web site. "Who," according to Baheti, "could better help organize information and make it easier to find than librarians?" The California State Library "was the obvious solution."

Baheti said later in an article on the Center for Digital Government's web site that the State Library's librarians "did the heavy lifting" on how to present content on the site. He concluded that librarians' services "have become integral to the future of e-government in the Golden State."

Librarians have long known the value they bring in organizing and presenting information. Now top leaders in e-government in the state recognize librarians' role in the development of the content for a successful, award-winning portal. It is happening in local government as well, as county and city librarians become involved with web sites for their communities. Because librarians, rather than information technology specialists, are responding to visitors' questions in what John Jewell, bureau chief, State Library Services at the California State Library, calls "plain English," the answers are accurate and on target. And, Jewell says, "information technology people are free to do their job; to focus on their specialties in hardware and software."

What do Mentor, Ohio and Weaverville, California have in common? *Much more than you think...*

[Editor's Note: Bessie Condos Tichauer, Children and Youth Services Consultant at the California State Library wrote this about an interesting postcard she received recently.]

Last week, I received a postcard addressed to the California State Library. It was from a Rose Henning of Mentor, Ohio, who stated that her American Association of University Women (AAUW) group wanted to donate "almost new" kindergarten through grade 8 children's book to the library in Weaverville, California. She wrote that her group had learned about the fires in Weaverville earlier in the summer and wanted to help the Weaverville library by donating children's books. All Henning asked of me was to provide the Weaverville library's address so the AAUW could ship the books. I called the director of the Trinity County Free Library, Oresta Esquibel, who was thrilled to learn the news.

Like me, you may be curious about the origin of

the name *Mentor* and where the town is located. In Greek literature, Mentor was the tutor of Telemachus, the son of Odysseus. The city of Mentor is in the northeastern part of Ohio, some 30 miles from Cleveland and 153 miles from Columbus. It is remarkable that this Ohio town, which is more than 2,500 miles away from Weaverville, should decide to help the rural California library. It's good to know that a town this far away from California thinks enough of libraries and children that it sends children's books to replace ones destroyed by fire. This common feeling is the tie that can bind many communities together during a crisis, and in this case, created a common link between Weaverville and Mentor.

**OFFICE OF LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION
STAFF SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS**

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001 BOARD MEETING

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board

The following is an unofficial summary of the Board actions created by the California State Library, Office of Library Construction staff. It is not an official record of Board action, only the approved Board minutes are the official record. This document is being promulgated at this time because the official Board minutes will not be finalized until the next Board meeting, which will not be until December, 2001.

Agenda Item Identifier

**Approve Proposed Modifications to Title 5 Regulations,
including the Title 5 Application Form**

Actions:

1. The Board voted unanimously to incorporate an outline from Bond Counsel regarding land which is leased from another entity, and allowing for technical and conforming changes, through counsel.
2. The Board voted unanimously to adopt modifications as presented, with staff authorized to make necessary minor technical adjustments. Staff should then submit the modified proposed Title 5 regulations for a 15-day comment period. If there are no subsequent changes of substance to be made at the end of the 15-day comment period, staff will then submit the proposed Title 5 regulations to the Office of Administrative Law for review and approval.

Agenda Item Identifier

Approve Proposed Modifications to Title 24 Regulations

1. The Board voted unanimously to adopt modifications as presented, with staff authorized to make necessary minor technical adjustments. Staff should then submit the modified proposed Title 24 regulations for a 15-day comment period. If there are no subsequent changes of substance to be made at the end of the 15-day comment period, staff will then submit the proposed Title 24 regulations to the Building Standards Commission for review and approval.

Notice from the Office of Library Contruction

On September 19, 2001, the Office of Library Construction mailed out the notice for the 15-Day comment period along with the "Modified Proposed Regulations" for both Title 5 and Title 24 (see www.library.ca.gov). The comment period is over at 5 p.m. on October 4, 2001. Comments can only be made on the changes from the original proposed regulations, (i.e., only those words or phrases which are underlined twice or have a strike through for deletion). See the Notice information on our website (www.library.ca.gov) if you want more information. If no other changes are needed, staff will finish out the rulemaking files and submit them by mid-October.



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Essay contest sets December 1st deadline



The Letters About Literature competition, open to students in grades four through twelve, is inviting children to write letters to the authors of their favorite books. The first- and second-place winners on two levels will receive cash awards and be flown to Sacramento for an awards ceremony in the spring.

Sponsored nationwide by the Library of Congress and the Weekly Reader Corporation, the competition is conducted in more than 30 states and involves tens of thousands of students. Prizes are given on both the national and state levels. In California, prizes are awarded for those letters that express most eloquently the importance of a particular book to a child.

Entries are judged on two levels: Level I for grades four through seven, and Level II for grades eight through twelve. In May of this year First Lady Sharon Davis presented prizes and certificates to the winners in a ceremony in the governor's office in Sacramento, \$250 apiece for the two first-place winners, and \$150 apiece for the second-place winners.

This fall there will be a third category for adult learners of English enrolled in literacy programs in California. As with the children, there will be first- and second-place prizes for the adults.

Judges of the children's competition in California include Eve Bunting, the children's author; John Gilmore, education editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune; David Kipen, book editor at the San Francisco Chronicle; Patt Morrison, a columnist at Los Angeles Times; Mort Saltzman, deputy managing editor at the Sacramento Bee; and several children's librarians. A separate panel of judges will select winners in the competition for adult learners of English.

The deadline for the competition is December 1. Winners will be announced in the spring. For entry forms, students and teachers may write to:

Robert Daseler
California State Library
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

Letters About Literature in California is sponsored by the California State Library, the California Center for the Book, the California Department of Education, the California School Library Association, the Children's Literature Council for Southern California, and Southwest Airlines.

For more information on Letters About Literature, you may call Robert Daseler at (916) 654-0108 or Natalie Cole at (310) 206-9361.

League of Women Voters announces new quality of life project

Public discussion plays a vital role in helping communities develop a better understanding of their needs. This year the League of Women Voters of California is helping communities do just that by hosting community issues forums in different California communities where people talk about the need for quality of life in California and in their communities.

During the past year, the League held test forums in several communities using an issue book called *Choices for a Vital Community: Which Way Do We Go?* Forum participants shared encouraging remarks about what they learned. Many said they heard new perspectives and developed a new understanding and appreciation for ideas that were very different from their own. As a result of attending the forums they:

- became more aware of the different quality of life

issues in their community and how to address them;

- learned more ways to help improve their community's quality of life.

The League hopes to team up with partners like public libraries and community-based organizations to provide more forums where people can engage in public talk about the quality of life they want for their community and for the state. A grant from The William Flora Hewlett Foundation will provide issue books with tips on organizing community forums for participants. Forum moderators will also get guides containing scripts on how to promote public discussion on issues aired during the forum and on what the participants decided on each issue. The League has begun promoting the

Please see Project, page 6

Provider: Librarians Association of the University of California, Berkeley

Course: "Forging Library Partnerships in the Networked Age"

Date and locations: "

Friday, Nov. 2, 2001; 9:15 a.m.- 4 p.m

Clark Kerr Campus, UC Berkeley

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/LAUC/Partner>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: E-books 101

Dates and location:

Monday, October 29

San Francisco Public Library

Tuesday, November 13

Sacramento County Office of Education

Wednesday, November 28

Courtyard Los Angeles Old Pasadena

Tuesday, December 11

San Jose Public Library

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/61>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Mastering Tough Public Service Situations

Dates and location:

Wednesday, October 3

Belvedere-Tiburon Public Library

Thursday, October 4

Pleasant Hill-Contra Costa County Library Gates Lab

Tuesday, October 16

Los Angeles Public Library

Mid-Valley Regional Branch

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/55>

Provider: UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies,
Department of Information Studies

Course: Web Design Using Photoshop and Dreamweaver

Date: November 9, 9:30a.m.-3:30p.m.

Course: Health Information at Your Fingertips!

Date: November 16, 9:30a.m.-1p.m.

Course: Collection Development 101

Date: December 7, 9a.m.-4p.m.

<http://is.gseis.ucla.edu/conted>

Provider: InfoPeople

Course: Survival Skills for School Librarians:
Using Web Technology

Dates and locations:

Monday, October 1

Los Angeles Public Library

Monday, October 22

National City Public Library

Friday, November 9

San Jose Public Library - GATES Lab

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/57>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Gumby Meets Dewey:
Rethinking Library Staffing Issues

Dates and Locations:

Friday, November 30

Sacramento County Office of Education

Please see Training Corner, page 7

from page 5

Project

forums by mailing the convener's guidebook, moderator book, and the issue book *Choices for a Vital Community: Which Way Do We Go?* to public library directors throughout the state. This 28-page booklet and a two-page summary of the issues to be discussed are also available in PDF format on the League of Women Voters Website at www.ca.lwv.org.

For public libraries seeking to enhance adult services programming, the forums offer a unique way for them to bring diverse community groups together to discuss common quality of life issues that are vital to the community and its future well-being.

Find out how one community forum at a public library brought that community together to improve services for

children and youth in a future issue of *Connection*.

Choices for a Vital Community: Which Way Do We Go? is available on the League of Women Voters Web site at www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/citizenized/sustcomm.html. To find out more about the League of Women Voters organization itself, visit their Web site at www.ca.lwv.org. To learn more about the issues forum, contact Seena Alenick-Clark, League of Women Voters of California Sustainable Communities project coordinator, at (510) 568-2388. You can also contact Cindy Costales, literacy consultant, California State Library, at (916) 651-8304, or by email to ccostales@library.ca.gov.

Training Corner

Provider: InFoPeople...continued...

Course: Gumby Meets Dewey:
Rethinking Library Staffing Issues

Dates and Locations:

Friday, December 7
Fullerton Public Library

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/59>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Computer and Internet Troubleshooting 101

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, October 9
Riverside County Library-Robidoux Branch
Tuesday, October 23
Bakersfield-Beale Memorial Library
Kern County Library

Wednesday, October 31
Vallejo-John F. Kennedy Library Branch
Solano County Library

Wednesday, November 7
National City Public Library
Monday, November 19
San Jose Public Library - GATES Lab

Friday, December 7
Los Angeles Public Library
Electronic Resources Training Center

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/51>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Readers' Advisory on the Web

Dates and Locations:

Wednesday, October 24
San Francisco Public Library

Wednesday, November 28
Los Angeles Public Library
Electronic Resources Training Center

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/49>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Virtual Reference: Is it for you?

Dates and Locations:

Wednesday, October 17
Los Angeles Public Library
Electronic Resources Training Center

Wednesday, October 31
Fresno County Public Library Gates Computer Lab

Friday, November 16
Sacramento County Office of Education

Friday, November 30
Ventura County Library-E.P.Foster

Monday, December 10
San Jose Public Library - GATES Lab

To register for this workshop:

Use the online registration form at

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/60>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Getting the Most from PowerPoint

Dates and locations:

Friday, October 19
Los Angeles Public Library
Electronic Resources

Tuesday, October 30
San Francisco Public Library

Thursday, November 15
Bakersfield-Beale Memorial Library

Tuesday, November 27
Ventura County Library-E.P.Foster

Tuesday, December 11
Salinas Public Library

To register for this workshop:

Use the online registration form at

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/10>



Coming in the November issue of CONNECTION

State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr is in the process of deciding which Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants to fund for the 2001/2002 grant cycle. The November issue of *Connection* will list the grant projects funded to date and the amounts awarded.

Stay Tuned!

2001 October

October 14-20, 2001

Teen Read Week

October 31-November 2, 2001

California School Libraries Association (CSLA)
Annual Conference, Long Beach

November

November 2-5, 2001

California Library Association (CLA)
Annual Conference, Long Beach

November 5-6, 2001

Library of California board meeting, Long Beach

November 14-18, 2001

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
National Conference, Indianapolis

2002 January

January 18-23, 2002

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting,
New Orleans

March

March 13-16, 2002

Public Libraries Association (PLA) National Conference,
Phoenix

April

April 14-20, 2002

National Library Week

June

June 13-20, 2002

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference,
Atlanta

November

November 15-18, 2002

California Library Association (CLA), Annual Conference,
Sacramento

CONNECTION

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Articles for inclusion in a
future issue of the
Connection are welcomed.
Please submit articles or
suggestions to the *Connection*
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<http://www.library.ca.gov/loc/board/index.html>

California Public Library Construction
and Renovation Board:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/html/libser17h.html>